



**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 14, 2016**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB5613  
AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF STATE OF BIRTH INFORMATION O VOTER RECORDS**

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and members of the GAE Committee, my name is Melissa Russell and I am a registrar of voters in Bethlehem, as well as the president of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC), any my testimony today is in opposition to HB5613.

This bill would prohibit the disclosure of the birth date of an elector, and require registrars to redact that information when releasing such voter records to the public. Voter records are accessed by the public for various reasons: sometimes it's to identify the demographics of a voting population, which could include the ages of who is voting, at other times it is to determine who has voted in an election. Occasionally registrars are asked to provide voter records to members of the public in an attempt to determine who lives at a certain address.

ROVAC believes in transparency in our elections and voter lists, and the date of birth of a voter can be the one distinguishing feature between electors with the same name, and the only way of identifying a particular voter. We believe that redacting the dates of birth when providing the public with voter information is an unnecessary and potentially harmful suppression of information that the public is entitled to know.

We respectfully ask the members of this committee not to move forward with this bill, and thank you for your time and consideration on this and all election issues.